

Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz

Press Release #6/24, 4 May 2024

!!! Embargo: 21:00 !!!

FESTIVAL AWARDS 2024

The Awards Ceremony for the 21st edition of the Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz took place today in the Ursulinensaal at OK Linz, with Miriam Hie hosting the atmospheric evening.

In the presence of jury members, numerous film guests, industry representatives and the trade press from Austria and abroad, as well as representatives of funding partners, sponsors and representatives of cultural policy – a.o. *Gertraud Scheiblberger*, State deputy, on behalf of the Governor of the Federal Province of Upper Austria Thomas Stelzer, *Dietmar Prammer*, City Councilor, on behalf of Mayor Klaus Luger, *Theresa Ganhör*, Municipal Councilor, on behalf of City Councilor Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, *Michael Brauner*, Gutenberg-Werbering, *Liliana Nelska*, VdFS, *Marco Zinz*, Managing Director The Grand Post – Post Production Houses, *Solenn Durmord* (Les Arcs Film Festival, France) & *Joshua Jádi*, FilmFestival Cottbus, Germany – on behalf of MIOB – Festival Network Moving Images Open Borders – the CROSSING EUROPE AWARDS (cash & non-cash prizes worth € 28,500) and the MIOB New Vision Award 2024 (€ 3000) were presented, festival directors Sabine Gebetsroither and Katharina Riedler drew a positive balance.

Crossing Europe Competition – Fiction

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Best Fiction Film

€5.000,- powered by [Linz Kultur](#)

MELK / MILK

Stefanie Kolk, NL 2023, 96 min

The JURY COMPETITION - Fiction (Ivan Bakrač, Solenn Durmord & Barbara Wurm) justified their decision with the words:

"Our choice might not seem obvious. Nothing obvious in this film anyway. Every shot a tiny mystery, a slight move forward in life, a step towards embracing the world (nearly invisible, though so brave). The people in this film are calm, with their grief over loss and layers of emotion hidden deep inside their bodies. Their faces, gestures, and sometimes even words (after taking a deep breath) become the window to fellow human beings and the world they share, we share. It is a film about transmission on every level. Moderate in ambience, minimalist in style, sober in display and action, and pretty silent throughout – this movie touched us as if unconsciously. It is the warmth that comes from this caretaking of frozen bottles of nutrition, the lightness in times of darkness, the search for

common ground in lonely moments, which makes this film, daringly directed, and incredibly performed by Frieda Barnhard, an unforgettable image of belongingness. What a wonderful world of ours this would be, were it full of humans like Robin, a woman whose inner rebellion and strong sense of recognition transforms into something far beyond the usual or obvious, a path of witty vitality and honest dignity. The main award of the Competition Fiction goes to MELK by Stefanie Kolk."

Special Mention:

THE HUMAN HIBERNATION

Anna Cornudella Castro, ES 2024, 90 min

"With breathtaking precision in grading and framing, while visually remaining in the sphere of grainy solution and the darker side of the moon, this film is a real piece of cinematographic art, one that combines the deep devotion for all earthly creatures with sheer endless poetic creativity, the highest image- and sound-based sensitivity, and the explorative power of a hybrid, fragmentary, loosely sketched transrational yet natural narration. Our special mention goes to Anna Cornudella Castro's THE HUMAN HIBERNATION – for flying us to the moon!"

CROSSING EUROPE Audience Award - Best Fiction Film

€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich Kultur](#)

HYPNOSEN / THE HYPNOSIS

Ernst De Geer, SE/NO/FR 2023, 98 min

The film will be screened again tomorrow, on 5 May 2024, at 21:00 at Movimiento.

Crossing Europe Competition – Documentary

CROSSING EUROPE Social Awareness Award - Best Documentary

€ 5.000,- powered by [Gutenberg-Werbering](#) and Crossing Europe

FANNI KERTJE / FAIRY GARDEN

Gergő Somogyvári, HU/RO/HR 2023, 83 min

The JURY COMPETITION - Documentary (Diego Armando Aparicio, Ketevani Kapanadze & Marek Kozakiewicz) phrased its reasoning with these words:

"We watched 11 films in the documentary competition this week. Each brought to light very different stories, revealing many of the challenges Europe has faced for decades and has yet to overcome: gender inequality, ecological catastrophes, deficiencies in social care systems, disparities in class, and an unresolved guilt from its colonial past which still feels very present in today's raging refugee crisis and ongoing warfare. We learned a lot from all the films, but there was one film in particular that truly spoke directly to our hearts. Set against a backdrop of systemic violence and state oppression, this work reminds us that our shared humanity will always outlive the social structures that fail us. The film exudes warmth and reveals the hidden beauty of its protagonists beyond their

flaws, serving as an affirmation to life itself. Through its sincere observation of two unlikely companions, the viewer experiences a human closeness that is characteristic of only the finest works of documentary filmmaking, delivered with respect and empathy."

YAAAS! Competition

CROSSING EUROPE Award – YAAAS! Youth Jury

€ 3.000,- powered by [VdFS – Verwertungsgesellschaft der Filmschaffenden](#)

[VALOA VALOA VALOA / LIGHT LIGHT LIGHT](#)

Inari Niemi, FI 2023, 91 min

The YOUTH JURY (Cas Aigner, Ray Perfeller, Fiona Shala, Leila Tari & Elena Wagner) put it this way:

"This film moved us the most, due to the way it was filmed and the special use of colors. The dynamic between the two main protagonists was very touching because of its realistic and relatable portrayal. The movie showed us that the past is always present. The choice of songs made it easy for us to imagine life during that time."

Special Mention:

[RIVIÈRE](#)

Hugues Hariche, CH/FR 2023, 104 min

"We liked most of the movies in the YAAAS! Competition a lot and the decision was not an easy one to make. A Special Mention goes out to the movie RIVIÈRE by Hugues Hariche. It made a lasting impression on us because of the mood that it conveyed and the relatability of its characters."

The film will be screened again tomorrow, on 5 May 2024, at 18:00 at Movimiento.

Crossing Europe Competition – Local Artist

CROSSING EUROPE Award - Local Artist

€ 5.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich Kultur](#)

€ 2.000,- Voucher by [THE GRAND POST - Post Production Houses](#)

Monetary prize € 5.000,-:

[MARLENE](#)

Daniel Kalkhofer, AT 2023, 52 min

The JURY COMPETITION – Local Artist (Elisa Andessner, Joshua Jádi & Nana Thurner) reached the following decision:

"This year's Crossing Europe Award – Local Artist goes out to a documentary that focuses on a female athlete. What captivated us was the sober portrayal of the hard everyday training routine. It was the self-contained cinematic language that actually touched us and made us feel the protagonist's discipline, will power, and isolation. The necessary tension is created by the relationship between trainer and athlete. It is a film that presents a woman with a fighting spirit who unites physical power, tactics, and aggressiveness. The award goes to MARLENE by Daniel Kalkhofer."

Special Mention:

IM TRAUM SIND ALLE QUALLEN FEUCHT / IN THEIR DREAMS ALL JELLYFISH ARE WET

Marie Luise Lehner, AT 2023, 27 min

"We couldn't resist to give one special mention to an additional film: Not knowing the rules or not feeling comfortable with them can sometimes lead to awkward situations, which this film has no shortage of. The unique setting, vivid cast and playful language more than once made us laugh. Therefore we would like to give a special mention to IN THEIR DREAMS ALL JELLYFISH ARE WET by Marie Luise Lehner."

€2.000,- voucher:

THE ELECTRIC KISS

Rainer Kohlberger, AT/DE 2024, 18 min

"A film that embodies the cinematic form of a modern painting, beautifully blurring the boundaries between self and other, human and non-human. By pushing the limits of cinema, this film reveals new and unforeseen possibilities within this still young medium. We are therefore delighted to support with this award the next project of this innovative artist and award the Voucher to Rainer Kohlberger for his outstanding film THE ELECTRIC KISS."

CROSSING EUROPE Innovation Award – Local Artist

initiated by [ANIMA PLUS – Verein zur Förderung der Animationskunst](#)

€ 2.000,- powered by [Land Oberösterreich Kultur](#) and [Linz Kultur](#)

LAUTE STILLE

Lisa Bayr, Lukas Brandstetter, Katharina Arbeitshuber, AT 2024, 4 min

"We are very honoured to be able to give a special award dedicated to an animated film. Animation as an art form is incredibly versatile and can be found in many places, sometimes outside the movie screen. This particular animation skilfully displays a combination of techniques, allowing its shapeshifting antagonist to literally escape the flat surface of a white wall, reaching into three-dimensionality. Mixing reality with fantastic elements in a playful and engaging way, we would like to give this award to LAUTE STILLE, congratulations!"

CREATIVE REGION MUSIC VIDEO Award

€ 1.500,- powered by [Creative Region Linz & Upper Austria](#)

DON'T WORRY – FRANZ POP COLLECTIVE

Gloria Gammer, AT 2023, 3 min

"With an innovative use of daily scrolling through the Instagram feed, this music video celebrates our own destruction in a terrifyingly entertaining way. But it is also a wake-up call because we must act now. The CREATIVE REGION Music Video Award goes to DON'T WORRY - FRANZ POP COLLECTIVE by Gloria Gammer."

MIOB New Vision Award 2024

€ 3.000,- powered by [MIOB | Moving Images – Open Borders](#)

The members of the festival network [Moving Images – Open Borders \(MIOB\)](#) award the prize annually to an innovative European first or second feature-length film.

SLOW

Marija Kavtaradze, LT/ES/SE 2023, 108 min

The film will be screened tomorrow, 5 May 2024, at 19:45 in City 1.

!!! Embargo: 21 Uhr !!!

IMPRESSIONS, STILLS & UPDATES

Film stills & impressions: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

Logo & festival motif: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/downloads>

As always, regular updates and current information about Crossing Europe can be found on our website [crossingeurope.at](https://www.crossingeurope.at), [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).